

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

The Prior Art

U.S. 5,981,781 to Knowlton (Knowlton); U.S. 5,928,704 to Takeda et al (Takeda).

The Rejections

Claims 5-8 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton for the reasons of record.

Claims 9 and 16-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton as applied above and further in view of Takeda for reasons of record.

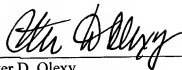
These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Since Knowlton is central to both rejections, Applicants focus on Knowlton.

A major feature of the present invention is adding an aqueous solution of ascorbic acid to a fat for confectionary production. In Knowlton, adding citric acid to a fat as an aqueous solution is not disclosed. Further, adding ascorbic acid to a fat as an aqueous solution is not disclosed. Also, Knowlton does not disclose that water in the aqueous solution of ascorbic acid is dried under the specific condition in the present claims. Additionally, the effect that ascorbic acid is solved and remains in an amount of 60 ppm or less in the fat which can be obtained by the steps described above is not disclosed. In this regard, ascorbic acid which is not solved in the fat is precipitated or removed by a filtering device which is usually used in the step for obtaining fat containing acid.

Applicants rely on the above remarks to traverse both rejections. Withdrawal of all rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter D. Olexy
Registration No. 24,513

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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